Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Library Issues Video Interview With Poet Laureate Richard Wilbur

The Library of Congress has just issued a 30-minute videotaped interview featuring Richard Wilbur, the nation's second Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress. The videotape, "A Conversation with Richard Wilbur," contains an interview by poet Grace Cavalieri, host of the national radio series "The Poet and the Poem." It is now available for purchase from the Library.

Richard Wilbur

The videotape captures the warm informality of the poet "at home" in the Poetry Office, a bookish hideaway on the top floor of the Jefferson Building of the Library, which has served as a retreat for the Library's poetry consultants – the nation's leading poets – from the 1930s to the present. In that relaxed atmosphere, the poet reads from his poetry, his translations, and even from the lyrics he wrote for Leonard Bernstein's production of "Candide." He includes "On Having Misidentified a Wildflower," "On the Bum," the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Things of This World," "Speech for the Repeal of the McCarran Act," and "The Writer." His new book, *New and Collected Poems* (published in April by Harcourt Brace), is also mentioned.

The 30-minute interview reveals much about this versatile man of letters, whose poetry has won the highest literary honors. Soldier

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Laureate *(Cont. from p. 201)*
on active duty in Italy, France, and Germany in World War II; scholar at Amherst and Harvard; husband and father; poet, teacher, critic, and translator—his rich and varied life has been a full one. Hearing him speak of his own experiences gives a special insight into the poet and the man.

The videotape is certain to be a valuable addition to school libraries and public libraries as well as to individuals who want to know more about poets and their work.

"A Conversation with Richard Wilbur" is now available for $25 from the Library of Congress, Sales Shop, Box A, Washington, DC 20540. Add $2 for shipping and handling and specify VHS or Beta format.

Two Millionth Record Is Verified in the Online Authority File

The two millionth verified name authority record mark was achieved by the Library of Congress on February 18. The first authority records were keyed and verified in April of 1977. Over the past 11 years the combined efforts of catalogers and verifiers in the Library of Congress as well as contributing institutions have aided in the achievement of these two million authority records.

The Name Authority Conversion Section, MARC Editorial Division, had the honor of adding the name authority record to the online Authority File. Verifiers Liliane Yates and Alberta Prosser keyed and verified authority record n87-930507 which was established by Sean Barnett, a descriptive cataloger in the German Section of the Shared Cataloging Division.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued weekly by the Information Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Bruce Tapper, Editor

CONSER Operations Committee Meets At the Library

The CONSER Operations Committee held its annual meeting at the Library of Congress on April 8. The committee is responsible for technical and operational matters within the CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials) Program.

Linda Bartley, CONSER Operations coordinator at the Library of Congress, chaired the meeting.

Ed Jones of Harvard University, chair of the Database Task Force, reviewed a draft section of the *CONSER Editing Guide (CEG)* which covers the basic policies and principles applied by the program's participants. The section, which is based on the recommendations of the Database Task Force, includes policies relating to current cataloging, database maintenance, and retrospective conversion.

Staff at CONSER institutions will try out the provisions in the draft for a six-month period, after which the draft, or revisions thereof, will be presented to the CONSER Policy Committee to approve as official CONSER policy.

Jean Hirons of the Library of Congress highlighted Update 3 of the *CEG*, which will be issued this spring. A new chapter is included which redefines the CONSER record and explains its creation and distribution.

Dorothy Glasby of the Library of Congress asked the group for comment on two draft Library of Congress rule interpretations. The first, which would eliminate words such as "for the year ending" from a title, elicited much discussion and a fair amount of opposition, and so will be given further consideration. The second, which covers changes in the order of titles and the publisher's intention to change the title, was amended slightly and approved by the group.

Mrs. Glasby was joined by Suzanne Liggett, the coordinator for Cooperative Cataloging Programs (National Cooperative Cataloging Operations—NACO), for a discussion of new procedures for the submission of CONSER name authority records. CONSER participants will begin submitting name headings for review to the NACO office in May, rather than to the Serial Record Division. Thus far, CONSER name authority records have been reviewed by the Serial Record Division, but beginning in May the review will be handled by NACO.

Gary Charbonneau of Indiana University reported on Indiana's experience as the first LSP (Linked Systems Project) participant to input authority records online to OCLC. One of the best features, according to Mr. Charbonneau, is the enhanced searching capability on the OCLC/LSP authority file which allows users to "browse" headings using a scrolling mechanism. Mrs. Glasby reported that the Library of Congress Serial Record Division will become the second LSP participant, via OCLC, later this spring.

Following lunch and a slide presentation on the United States Newspaper Program, presented by Todd Butler of the Library of Congress, the group examined issues relating to content designation. This

was followed by a status report on the new OCLC system, given by Alex Bloss of OCLC. Mr. Bloss reported that release 1, which will be tested next spring, will contain a browseable title index and new display formats, among other features. Release 2, presently in the design stage, will accommodate a name/address directory and holdings.

Julia Blixrud of the Library of Congress reported on the activities of the Library of Congress Format Integration Task Force which will be considering, as part of its charge, the implications of format integration on CONSER and the best means for documentation and implementation. Alex Bloss described the status of the CONSER Multiple Versions Task Force which is addressing the long-standing problem of multiple manifestations of the same intellectual work and how each should be represented in a bibliographic database. John Graves of the Library of Congress joined the meeting to discuss the activities of the Micro and Macro Technology Task Forces. The first is charged with finding an interim means for RLIN participants to contribute CONSER records. A project initiated with Cornell University to input records via reports to *New Serial Titles* has been very successful and is being expanded to include the University of Michigan. The Macro Technology Task Force is examining the use of LSP for serial bibliographic record transfer.

Maureen Landry of the Library of Congress explained a new statistics form devised by the CONSER Statistics Task Force, which will be used as of July 1. John Graves discussed the creation of CJK (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean) records for CONSER, which is being investigated by the CONSER Vernacular Task Force.

Linda Bartley concluded the discussion with a call for members for a new Subject and Classification Task Force. Following the meeting, Gary Charbonneau demonstrated input/update and new searching capabilities for authorities on the OCLC/LSP authority file.

—Jean Hirons

Burgess Meredith Visits Library To Launch His Film on Robert Frost

Burgess Meredith (left) with Librarian of Congress James H Billington

The Librarian of Congress shared a light moment with actor Burgess Meredith at the March 24 premiere of "The Afterglow" at the Mary Pickford Theater. A specially invited audience viewed the film, a tribute to Robert Frost which stars Mr. Meredith and was also written and directed by him.

Library Publishes *USMARC Format for Authority Data—Update*

Update No. 1 to the *USMARC Format for Authority Data* is now available. The update mainly consists of changes to the format resulting from proposals which were considered by the American Library Association RTSD/LITA/RASD Committee on Representation of Machine-Readable Form of Bibliographic Information (MARBI) at its January 1988 meeting. In addition, "LC Guideline" pages have been included for the first time; such pages present Library of Congress guidelines for National Coordinated Cataloging Operations (NACO) participants contributing records to the Library of Congress authority files via the Linked Systems Project and information relating to authority records created by the Library of Congress.

Update No. 1 is the first update to the *USMARC Format for Authority Data*. The format was issued in June 1987. Update No. 1 sells for $20; the basic format document, for $35. The publications are available from the Cataloging Distribution Serivce, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20541.

Library Reception Honors Carlos Fuentes

John R. Hébert, acting chief, Hispanic Division (left); Carlos Fuentes and Mrs. Fuentes; James Symington; and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington

The Hispanic Division honored the Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes at a reception held in the Montpelier Room. Both Fuentes and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington recalled their years together at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars for the assembled group. Hon. James W. Symington, a long-time friend and colleague of Carlos Fuentes, briefly spoke about the translation of Rodo's *Ariel* on which he, Margaret Peden of the University of Missouri, and Fuentes had collaborated.

Carlos Fuentes, a best-selling novelist and playwright, is considered one of the most prominent and innovative contemporary Latin American writers. His works have been translated into more than 30 languages. Among his novels are: *La región más transparente, La muerte de Artemio Cruz, Cambio de piel, Terra Nostra, Agua quemada, Una familia lejana,* and *The Old Gringo.*

Carlos Fuentes is at George Mason University for a semester as a Heritage Professor of Arts and Cultural Criticism.

Correction

The report in the LC *Information Bulletin* (May 2, 1988, p. 183) on the poetry reading by Andrei Voznesensky at the Library of Congress should have mentioned that singer and actress Karen Akers read English translations of the poems. Edward Keenan assisted in the discussion that followed the reading.

AMERICAN TREASURY

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This week's question, drawn from the CBS News "American Treasury" series, broadcast each week at 3:57 p.m. (EST) on the CBS Television Network, is:

What president started the tradition of throwing out the first baseball of the season?

The answer to last week's question is:

Upton Sinclair's novel, *The Jungle,* sparked a congressional investigation that led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act.

STAFF NEWS

Online Users Group Hears About Project For New Reading Room

Linda Arret, automated reference services specialist in the General Reading Rooms Division, discussed the Machine-Readable Collections Reading Room pilot project at a recent meeting of the Online Users Group. This reading room will be located in Room LJ 140G of the Thomas Jefferson Building. Ms. Arret stressed that her remarks should be taken as a status report, since the reading room is not yet open but probably will be in the spring.

The purpose of the pilot project, which is to last one year, is fivefold: (1) to help establish collection guidelines for machine-readable materials; (2) to assist in maintaining bibliographic control over these materials; (3) to provide access to machine-readable materials; (4) to develop appropriate service policies and procedures for machine-readable materials; and (5) to help determine whether the Library's collections of machine-readable materials should eventually be handled in one reading room or dispersed to appropriate reading rooms throughout the Library.

This pilot project, according to Ms. Arret, is the result of recommendations contained in three committee reports: the May 1987 report of the Machine-Readable Collection Committee, the August 1985 report of the Task Force on Computer Collection Management, and the February 1983 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Selection Policy for Machine-Readable Publications. These committees recommended: (1) placing the pilot project under the General Reading Rooms Division because of the broad scope of material received; (2) interviewing users to assess their general familiarity with software products and hardware; (3) starting the reading room with materials already in the Library as well as purchasing several non-copyrighted items; and (4) establishing criteria for the selection of materials and formats.

Current regulations of the Copyright Office exempt machine-readable works from the mandatory requirement to deposit works published with a copyright notice. Currently under discussion is a proposal to change the Copyright regulations to make it

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

Library of Congress staff members tell the Bulletin *what they're reading:*

Jennifer Cutting, American Folklife Center: *Blue Highways* by William Least Heat Moon. "Evocative descriptions of disappearing traditions . . . especially for people who love diners."

Patrick Loughney, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division: *Stage to Screen* by Nicholas Vardac. "He was a decade before his time in realizing that D. W. Griffith's movie techniques came out of stage direction techniques. It was just reissued in paperback."

Georgette Dorn, Hispanic Division: *In Search of a Melancholy Baby* by Vasily Aksyonov. "A hilarious, witty, and insightful account of a Russian intellectual's saga as he moves from the East to the West. Wonderful description of the Washington, D.C., scene. Also Carlos Fuentes' *The Old Gringo.* Fuentes is one of my favorites."

STAFF NEWS

Online Users *(Cont. from p. 205)*
possible to demand computer software through the copyright law's Section 407 mandatory deposit provision after the work has been registered. If this change takes place, acquisitions of machine-readable materials will still be selective and still based on the Library's general collection guidelines. Also under consideration in the Copyright Office is amendment of the best edition regulation to include machine-readable formats. To build a collection for the reading room, machine-readable materials have been received from the Exchange and Gift Division, the Copyright Office, and the National Serials Data Program. To be transferred to the custody of the Machine-Readable Collections Reading Room are cataloged machine-readable materials already in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the Music Division, and the Microform Reading Room, as well as uncataloged material in the Science and Technology Division and selected items from the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC). Policies are being worked out with the Collections Development Office for future acquisitions. During the pilot project, no changes will be made in selection criteria.

Ms. Arret emphasized that during the pilot project no new policies will be initiated to bring machine-readable materials under bibliographic control; rather standard Library practices will be followed. Machine-readable materials accepted for registration by the Copyright Office will go to the Cataloging Division where, by working with accompanying documentation and the source or object code, the material will be cataloged as nondramatic literary works, copyright registration class TX. Copyright catalog records of machine-readable materials are retrievable through COHM in SCORPIO, and within that file it is possible to use a SCORPIO LIMT command to distinguish copyrighted machine-readable files from other TX materials.

Machine-readable materials receive full descriptive cataloging under AACR 2, and the subdivision SOFTWARE will appear as part of the subject heading on catalog records for software programs. By the end of the year a format for inputting MARC records is scheduled to be available for machine-readable materials. New searchable fields on these records will include technical details, such as the operating system, the programming language, and the machine required to use the program. Until MUMS records are available, PROCITE or some other bibliographic software will be used to create minimal catalog records for the pilot project reading room.

Library of Congress builds machine-readable collections for upcoming pilot project in new reading room.

When this reading room opens, it will have four work stations for users. Equipment will include three COMPAQ DESKPROs, one Hitachi CD-ROM drive, one Macintosh with a printer, two Epson printers, plus one Comterm with a printer for access to Library files. A core collection, including 40 best-selling IBM or IBM-compatible programs and Macintosh programs, with data and accompanying manuals, will be kept in the reading room. This collection will include word processing, database management, spreadsheets, graphics, desktop publishing, and other applications. The remainder of the collection, which will be broader in scope and not limited to IBM and Macintosh programs and data, will be housed on a nearby deck. The reading room will also contain a print reference collection of related monographs and serials, third-party manuals, and general reference works.

During the initial phase of the pilot project, the reading room will be staffed by Ms. Arret as well as by Ricky Erway of the Office of Planning and Development. John Kimball, head of the Automation and Reference Collections, General Reading Rooms Division, will supervise the operation. Other General Reading Rooms Division staff members will assist after they are trained and have acquired the necessary technical skills.

The reading room will be open to regular Library users and staff on a walk-in basis and by appointment. Users will register and be interviewed as to their level of skills and purpose in using the collections. Users can conduct research about machine-readable materials, but they cannot create their own documents, except as it is necessary to learn about or explore a particular program. Users will not handle the disks themselves; these will be loaded and unloaded by the staff. Staff in the room will provide some assistance using the files, but the room will not serve as a training center.

In response to questions, Ms. Arret added that the reading room will have simulator packages and communication software if these are received by the Library, but will not have fee-based data services.

The Machine-Readable Collections Reading Room will be open from 12 noon to 4 p.m. during the pilot project Monday through Friday. The official date of opening will be announced.

—Ronald Bluestone

STAFF NEWS

Book Sale Shoppers Bag Bargains; LCPA Raises $4,000 for Projects

Bargain-hunting bibliomaniacs filled shopping bags and boxes—and cash registers—at the 17th annual book sale of the Library of Congress Professional Association (LCPA) on May 4.

"This year at the sale we made more than $4,000, compared to $2,800 last year," said Peter Giordano, chair of the sale. He estimated that 6,000 items changed hands between 9 a.m.—when mobs clutching sale-donation receipts charged through the doors and bookshelf aisles of the former Official Catalog room—and 4 p.m., when there was little left but five scratched records and three tubs of rejects. When the sale opened, used hardbacks were selling for $1.50 each and paperbacks and other items were priced at 50 cents and 75 cents. By midafternoon, patrons could buy an empty carton for $3 and fill it with as many books as they could carry out. At the end of the day, anything left was given away. Unclaimed contents of one tub were donated to the Alexandria School District and of the other two tubs were given to the Exchange and Gift Division of the Library.

Mr. Giordano said Karen Alderson "did a great job" of organizing the cashiers and taking responsibility for sales receipts. He also thanked an estimated 90 volunteers who worked at the sale throughout the day.

In addition to raising money to pay for its two newsletters and other organization expenses, the LCPA sold 20 memberships during the day and collected contributions for its scholarship fund.

Melvin Aikens Earns 25-Year Pin

Melvin Aikens, a copyright technician in the Materials Control Section of the Receiving and Processing Division, recently received a 25-year Federal Service Award pin.

A native of Washington, D.C., and a 1960 graduate of Eastern High School, Mr. Aikens began his Library career on the Labor Force in 1962 and soon moved to the Exchange and Gift Division.

In 1966, Mr. Aikens joined the Copyright Office Mail Unit as a mail technician. Six years later, he became a searcher in the Materials Control Section.

He said he has seen many changes in the Copyright Office since 1966, but some aspects of working at the office remain constant.

"The people in Copyright are unique in a positive sense. Over the years we've watched one another grow. When I came here I was single. I've gotten married, and now I have three children. Copyright has been like a family. We've shared one another's sorrows and joys."

When Register of Copyrights Ralph Oman awarded Mr. Aikens his pin, the smiling recipient reflected not only upon a fruitful copyright career, but also on several outside activities that are more than hobbies.

Mr. Aikens' prison ministry takes him to the Maryland State Prison at Jessup and to the Washington, D.C., Jail. Also, he hopes to begin a pastoral ministry in Prince George's County.

Staff Activities

Robert E. Handloff, senior research analyst in the sub-Saharan Africa unit of the Federal Research Division, is the author of "Trade and Politics on the Asante Periphery: Gyaman, 1818–1900," which appeared in *The Golden Stool: Studies of the Asante Center and Periphery,* Enid Schildkrout, ed. (New York: American Museum of Natural History, 1987). The paper analyzes the relationship between trade and politics in Gyaman, a pre-colonial state on the periphery of the Asante empire in contemporary Cote d'Ivoire.

Richard Sachs, Paul Rundquist, Stanley Bach, and **Frederick M. Kaiser,** all staff of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), and **Roger Davidson,** former senior specialist with CRS, participated in the 46th annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association at DePaul University in Chicago, Ill., in April. Mr. Sachs chaired a panel, "Leadership in Congress and the Congressional Leadership Research Project," and presented a paper, "The Congressional Leadership Research Project: An Overview and Preliminary Findings." Mr. Rundquist was a panel discussant. For another panel, "The New Centralization in Congress," papers were presented by Mr. Bach, whose topic was "Managing Uncertainty: Special Rules in the Post Reform House of Representatives," and Mr. Davidson, whose topic was "The New Centralization on Capitol Hill." Mr. Kaiser's paper, "Congressional Oversight of Intelligence," was presented at a panel discussion, "Legislative Oversight of Bureaucracy."

Staff Carpool Locator

Established carpool, taking Route 50 and Columbia Pike from Manchester Street in Arlington, Va., seeks a rider/driver. Currently on compflex time. Please call Nancy Hall, ext. 75315.

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Thursday, May 26

☐ Exhibit opens of the White House News Photographers Association, photos and video award winners. Runs until November 27. Ground floor, Jefferson Building.

☐ "Brainstorming: Using the Nominal Group Technique to Generate Ideas," Nancy Davenport. LCPA. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

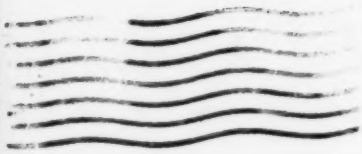
Friday, May 27

☐ Concert by David Hardy, violoncello, and Lambert Orkis, piano. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m. Free; no tickets required.

Friday, June 3

☐ Concert by Aaron Rosand, violin, and Vladimir Sokoloff, piano. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m. Free; no tickets required.

Events are open to the public unless otherwise noted.



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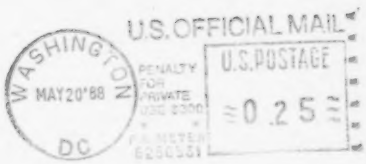

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